

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 091555Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6930

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T LONDON 00347

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, TU, UK

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CYPRUS ARMS IMPORTS

REF: ANKARA 85 AND 140; STATE 2516

SUMMARY: BRITISH DENY TELLING TURKS OF SNAPPER MISSILES, ARE STILL PLANNING LOW-KEYED APPROACH TO MAKARIOS RE CZECH ARMS, AND ARE HAPPY TO COOL ISSUE WHILE AWAITING POSSIBLE ACTION BY UN. PRINCESS MARGARET'S VISIT TO CYPRUS AND SBAS IN JANUARY WILL BE ROYAL BUT NOT OFFICIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. WE REVIEWED PROBLEM WITH FCO SOUTH EUROPEAN DEPT. HEAD GOODISON AND CYPRUS DESK OFFICER DAVIES JANUARY 8. TO BEGIN WITH, FCO OFFICIALS CLARIFIED THAT BRITISH HICOMER HAS NOT MADE REPRESENTATION TO MAKARIOS RE CZECH ARMS SINCE HE HAS NOT YET BEEN GRANTED AUDIENCE. HICOMER STILL INTENDS TAKE UP MATTER WHEN HE SEES MAKARIOS, THOUGH IN LOW-KEYED INTERROGATORY WAY.

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2. AS TO UN, FCO AWARE THAT OSORIO-TAFALL WOULD PREFER

THAT ARMS QUESTION BE PURSUED WITH GOC REPS IN NEW YORK. HOWEVER, AS OF DECEMBER 31 (AFTER OSORIO'S TRIP TO NEW YORK) BRITISH INFO WAS OSORIO PLANNED TAKE MATTER UP WITH MAKARIOS. FCO HAS NOT HEARD IF THIS HAS HAPPENED (AS DEPT REFTEL SUGGESTS).

3. FCO OFFICIALS ALSO DENIED THAT INFO RE SNAPPER SOVIET ANTI-TANK MISSILES WAS GIVEN TO TURKS BY BRITISH (A POINT CONFIRMED BY SECOND ANKARA REFTEL). IN FACT, ONLY TIME ARMS QUESTION WAS DISCUSSED WITH TURKS, BRITISH INFORMED THEM OF GOC DENIAL. BRITISH SAY THEY THEMSELVES HAVE NO PROOF POSITIVE OF SNAPPERS IN CYPRUS, THOUGH AWARE OF REPORTS. THEY EXPRESSED SOME DISBELIEF OF THEORY THAT MISSILES COULD HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND BY DEPARTING GREEK TROOPS IN 1968 SINCE MISSILES ARE OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE.

4. FCO OFFICIALS WERE HAPPY WITH OUR POLICY LINE INTENDED TO DAMPEN DOWN PROBLEM (DEPARTMENT REFTEL) AND WITH BARUTCU'S PROMISE THAT TURKS WOULD DO NOTHING PRECIPITATE (ANKARA 140). THIS ACCORDS WITH BRITISH VIEWS, WHILE AWAITING ANY UN ACTION.

5. IN LIGHTER VEIN, FCO OFFICIALS REFERRED TO PRINCESS MARGARET'S FORTHCOMING ROYAL VISIT TO CYPRUS (ABOUT JANUARY 19-22) DURING WHICH SHE HAS BEEN INVITED TO STAY IN ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE. PERHAPS, THEY JOKED, SHE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO POKE AROUND PALACE FOR ROOM IN WHICH CZECH ARMS MIGHT BE STORED..... MORE SERIOUSLY, THEY CONFIDED THAT ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF ROYAL VISIT WAS MARGARET'S DESIRE TO SEE HER REGIMENT STATIONED ON SBAS. MAKARIOS WAS VERY PLEASED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY UP THIS VISIT BY HIGHEST-RANKING BRITISH DIGNITARY IN SOME YEARS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, IMPORTS, MISSILES, ARMS SHIPMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON00347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740154/aaaabyqm.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ANKARA 85 AND 140; STATE 2516
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED CYPRUS ARMS IMPORTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, TU, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005